News-Pages of the GSWC

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. 4 January 2022
To Accompany *Family History Capers* Vol. 45 #2

GSWC Meetings are usually held at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month, September to May (unless a holiday interferes). Currently we are meeting via Zoom for the health and safety of our members. We are asking everyone to register ahead of time to assist with tracking attendance. If you are not a member, please send an email no less than three days before the event to info@washtenawgenealogy.org to request an invitation to register. **For information about registering or changes in venue check our website:** https://www.washtenawgenealogy.org **or our Facebook page**: https://www.facebook.com/genealogywashtenaw.

Upcoming Meetings:

Sunday, January 23, 2022: "Evernote and OneNote for Genealogy" presented by Grace Wilfong. Grace will speak on these two note-taking applications. Learn the difference between them and the many ways they can be used in your genealogy research, including keeping track of possible relatives and locations.
Class: "FamilySearch Part 1" by Mike Gerding. Mike will discuss some fundamentals of using FamilySearch that may help you improve your skills.

Sunday, February 27, 2022: "African American History in Washtenaw County" presented by Matt Siegfried.
Class: "FamilySearch Part 2" by Mike Gerding.

Sunday, March 27, 2022: **"40+ Sources for Finding Maiden Names"** presented by Katherine Willson.
Class: "Irish Pioneers of Washtenaw County" by Abigail Eynon.

Report on Recent Meetings:

December 5, 2021: "Digital News: Genealogical Research in Online Newspapers" given by Kris Rzepczynski (Senior Archivist, Archives of Michigan). This presentation provided a good basis on how to find subscription-based and free newspapers sites, the value of online newspapers, and research strategies.

Mr. Rzepczynski started his presentation with a discussion of newspaper content that is available for researchers. This includes obituaries, births, crimes, religion, advertisements, organizations, and of course, news.

He focused on subscription products and free websites. Examples of subscription products include Ancestry, Findmypast (emphasis on British material), and Newspapers.com. Free websites include Cyndi's List https://www.cyndislist.com/, FamilySearch https://www.familysearch.org/en/, and the Library of Congress https://loc.gov/.

He addressed areas where a person could find access to newspapers at the state level and through local public libraries.

As part of his talk, he gave tips on how to do better research. Focus your research on a particular database. Narrow your research to a particular newspaper, date range, or location.

Mr. Rzepczynski cautioned: Information is not all in one place. Check neighboring communities. Narrow is better.

Mr. Rzepczynski may be contacted at: rzepczynskik@michigan.gov.

Reported by Janet Gilkey

Class: "Perilous Assumptions: Revisiting Those First Finds." presented by Kris Rzepczynski. Kris shared some of his own family research and gave pointers on how to avoid rookie mistakes.

His discussed revisiting your past research to look for clues you might have missed. He noted that many of us used microfilm readers (now digital format) and kept our research in binders (now in "the cloud"). With increased knowledge, genealogists have learned to take a closer look at the **neighbors** who may provide key clues to the extended family. His Wladyslawa Tobolski (a.k.a. Toppol) married Peiotrowski in Gary, Indiana.

Unusual names may not appear correctly in records!

Some suggestions:

- **City Directories**: Pay attention to others with the same (or similar) surnames, even if you think they are not related.
- **Military**: Check all names that are possibilities, even if you think your person was not yet in the United States.
- **Collateral candidates** may provide background on your family—he found a Red Cross letter that revealed the living conditions of his family in Poland during World War I.
- **Maps:** Look for ethnic neighborhoods and overlapping families.
- **Odds and Ends:** Read, re-read and re-re-read your notes and documents! Pay attention to informants and witnesses in documents.

Reported by Marcia McCrary

Note: the handouts for both presentations are available on the washtenawgenealogy.org website. Members need to sign in, and then look at the submenu that appears under the "Members" button. Click on "Members Only Downloads". The first presentation is under "Meeting Handouts" and the second under "Class Handouts"

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GSWC Items:

Notes from the Board:

The next **GSWC Board Meeting** is Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m., via Zoom. For more information on the agenda and how to attend, send an email to Nancy Howard: president@washtenawgenealogy.org.

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The **DNA Special Interest Group** will meet next on Thursday, January 20, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m. on Zoom. Contact Rodger Wolf, rawolf@umich.edu for more information.

The **German Special Interest Group** will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 at 2 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mike Gerding, GermanSIG@comcast.net for more information.

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Boxes of Books

Christmas is over, but we're still excited about boxes containing possible treasures – right? Just like at the North Pole, some busy elves have been working on 18 boxes of donated books. Rob and Cyndy Steward have been safely storing the books in their home until such time that they can be added to our library, donated to other organizations or offered for purchase. Marcia McCrary, Tim Salatin and I recently transported the boxes, a few at a time, to Ed Redmer's. Ed is almost done scanning the titles into a database that will expedite finding duplicates within the donations and our existing library. The boxes are now safely stored at my house in Ypsilanti. There are over 300 titles. Many of the books will not be added to our GSWC Library because they don't meet our Library Collection Development policy. Our space at the Family History Center (LDS Church in Saline) is limited and we are still not sure when we can get in again. In the meantime, we have the opportunity to look through the boxes and identify which items will be disposed of (donated elsewhere or sold).

Is there someone out there that would like to join Marcia and me and have some fun looking through the treasures? We are looking for one or two people who are fully vaccinated and boosted to come to my house to go through the boxes. Marcia and I have been vaccinated and boosted and are willing to mask-up. Living within reasonable driving distance, especially now that winter is here, is a plus. I would also like to hear from someone that is not already on the Board or volunteering for other tasks. This is a project that has a start and end. You are not signing up for anything beyond this (unless you choose to).

Thanks to everyone who has taken on this task and is moving it forward!

Nancy Howard

president@washtenawgenealogy.org

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